



JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
820 NORTH FRENCH STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

CONTACT JASON MILLER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
PHONE (302) 577-8949
CELL (302) 893-8939
Jason.Miller@state.de.us

Media Release

June 6, 2011

Delaware Hosts National Training on Investigating and Prosecuting Patient Abuse

Wilmington – Today, Attorney General Beau Biden welcomed investigators, prosecutors and auditors from across the country to a three-day training on investigating and prosecuting patient abuse and neglect in residential facilities. The Delaware Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is hosting the Resident Abuse Committee’s Training Program, which is sponsored by the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (NAMFCU).

“We have a special obligation to stand up for children, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are dependent upon others for their care in residential or group home settings,” Attorney General Biden said. “This training brings law enforcement together with experts from around the country to ensure that we’re working together effectively and are using all of the investigative tools at our disposal to identify and prosecute those who would defraud the Medicaid Program and prey on those who can’t protect themselves.”

The Delaware Attorney General’s Office was selected by NAMFCU’s Resident Abuse Committee to host this week’s training, which has brought more than 125 State Medicaid Fraud prosecutors, investigators, and analysts together with forensic experts, medical professionals and other subject matter experts leading training sessions. Attendees represent 37 states and the District of Columbia, including individuals from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii.

Law enforcement faces challenges in detecting patient abuse and neglect because victims may have difficulty communicating or may be too intimidated to report the crime to authorities. This week’s training seeks to help prosecutors and investigators identify and develop strong cases with sessions devoted to: using forensic techniques to document neglect; identifying fraud through facilities’ cost reporting and survey data; interviewing witnesses and using documentary evidence effectively to build cases; and techniques to present persuasive cases to a jury.

Since taking office, Attorney General Biden has secured new resources and pursued legislation to better protect vulnerable Delawareans. He established the Delaware Child Predator Task Force and Senior Protection Initiative and his office drafted a new law that extends the “no contact” provision of Protection From Abuse Orders. This year, Biden’s office drafted legislation that provides protection for vulnerable adults in healthcare facilities and a bill that allows victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and others to keep their address confidential.

State Medicaid Fraud Control Units are charged with protecting residents who receive Medicaid funds and the taxpayers who support the Medicaid Program. These units investigate healthcare providers who defraud the Medicaid program, as well as combat patient abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and financial exploitation in nursing homes and other facilities that receive Medicaid funds.

NAMFCU provides a forum for a nationwide sharing of information related to Medicaid fraud. NAMFCU works to improve the quality of Medicaid prosecutions by conducting training programs, providing technical assistance to Association members and provide the public with information about the MFCU program.

#